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National High-Flying Schools Showcase

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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY
AT JOHN P. PARKER SCHOOL
CINCINNATI, OHIO

AGENDA

Overview – Vision 2020 & John P. Parker School (Dr. Kimberly Mack)

New Mission, Vision, Program Focus (Dr. Martha Hendricks)

GEL in Practice – Teacher Perspectives (Milbeth Allen)

CLC Partnerships to Support GEL (Pamela Knox)

Testimonial – Community Connectors (Deborah Elkins-Brown)

Quick Wins (Dr. Kimberly Mack)



VISION 2020 – MY TOMORROW

Cincinnati Public Schools implemented an equity and access policy, which resulted in the Vision 2020 Focus for Neighborhood Schools.

- Offer specialized programming in neighborhood schools similar to magnet programs.
- Level the playing field between magnet and neighborhood schools.
- Increase interest in neighborhood schools.



WHY JOHN P. PARKER SCHOOL?

- Deficit thinking was pervasive throughout the school community.
- Behaviors were inappropriate.
- Low test scores
- Little community support for the school
 - Community strategized to change the school's population.
 - Invited a charter school to move into the community to deplete enrollment.
 - Lobbied for the school to become a magnet program to attract affluent families.



WHAT DID WE DO?

- Changed our school community perception by changing the narrative.
- Implemented a program focus, Global Environmental Literacy.
- Executed a weekly school-wide Monday morning meeting and Positive School Culture orientations to reinforce expectations and promote character strengths.
- Increased community engagement and visibility through Community Learning Center activities.
- Increased parental engagement.
- Offered staff training to develop buy-in and accountability for changes.



NEW VISION & MISSION

- Met most of our initial mission and vision goals.
- Needed to overcome misperceptions about the school
- Proposed service learning as a means of changing perceptions
 - Learners as community contributors



PROCESS FOR MISSION AND VISION DEVELOPMENT

- Met with Local School Decision-Making Committee (school governance committee)
 - Garnered input from teachers, parents, students, school community partners, and community council
 - Surveys
 - Google polls
 - Focus groups
 - Staff meeting discussions
 - Individual meetings
-

NEW VISION & MISSION

MISSION STATEMENT

John P. Parker School will prepare students for college and career readiness, knowing that they have the responsibility to make a difference in the world and the ability to do so.



NEW VISION & MISSION

CORE VALUES

- *Accountability and Responsibility*
- *Teamwork and Collaboration*
- *Service Learning*
- *Global Citizenship*
- *Environmental Literacy*
- *Lifelong Learning*



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Global Environmental Literacy
 - Global Citizenship (Social Studies)
 - Environmental Literacy (Science)
 - Health and Wellness
 - Digital Literacy
 - Service Learning



USING NEW APPROACH TO SCHOOL SYSTEMS

- Began to pilot curriculum projects immediately upon approval.
 - GEL Teams were developed.
 - 5 Teams Leaders for each aspect of GEL
 - Teachers assigned to teams based upon interest to conduct research and pilot curricular ideas
 - Service learning projects developed and implemented.
 - New approach to teacher selection was developed.
 - New partners identified to support program
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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY (VIDEO)

- VISION 2020: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx8YRjjvJPU>



GEL: RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH

- Offers hands-on, authentic opportunities for learning all content areas.
 - Enhances 21st century skills (collaboration, problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication).
 - Develops global citizens and stewards of our world.
 - Prepares students for the jobs that have not yet been created.
 - Ensures students know that they have a responsibility to make a difference in the world.
-

GEL IN PRACTICE WITH URBAN STUDENTS

Global Citizenship

- Volunteer with local non-profit to learn about global relief efforts
 - Support understanding of how waste affects our community
 - Support understanding of how gardens grow using hydroponics vs. traditional methods of gardening in our community and around the world
 - Learning the role of first responders in our community and around the nation
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GEL IN PRACTICE WITH EARLY LEARNERS

Environmental Literacy

- Take nature walks on our campus and at neighboring nature preserve
- Composting food waste from our school's fruit and vegetable program to make fertile soil
- Using food from the garden and hydroponics to make salads and share.
 - Seed to culinary
- Studying the basic needs of living things

GEL IN PRACTICE WITH EARLY LEARNERS

Digital Literacy

- Using iPads, e-Beams, tablets, and computers to research and use Microsoft applications.
 - Using a variety of applications such as Zearn, Bookflix, Tumble Books, and Starfall.com, and GetEpic.
 - Participate in Super Why Reading Camp to increase literacy skills.
 - Implement skill-based activities through videos and other media.
-

GEL IN PRACTICE WITH EARLY LEARNERS

Health and Wellness

- Give students opportunities for movement and meditation with Mission2Move curriculum.
- Making health snacks with food from the garden and hydroponics tower.
- Making salsa with a smoothie bicycle using items from our school garden.

GEL IN PRACTICE WITH EARLY LEARNERS

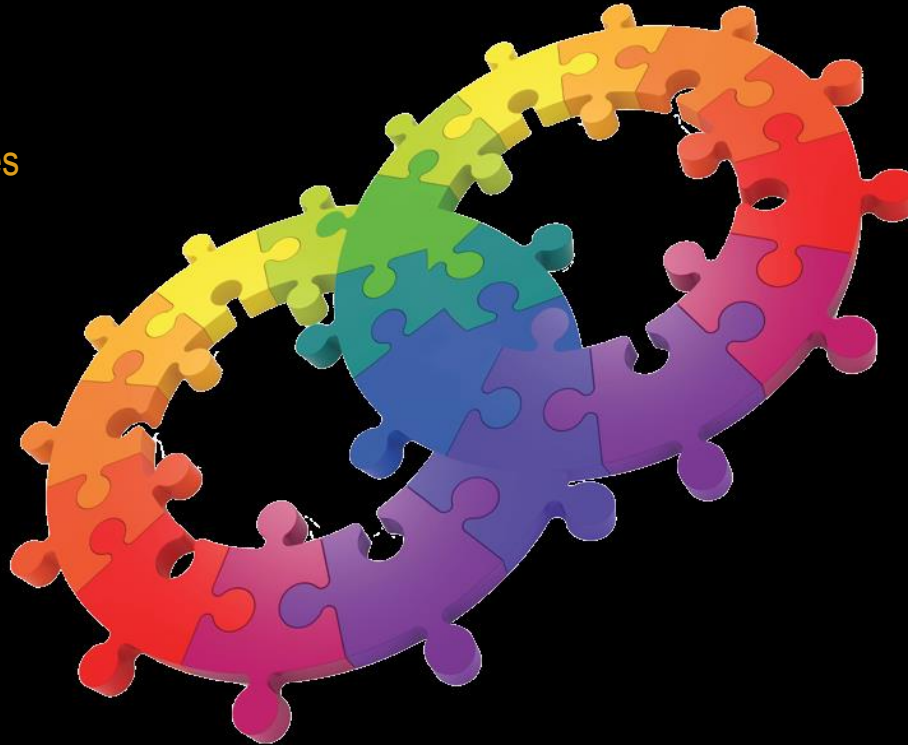
Service Learning

- Visit local non-profits to volunteer in relief efforts.
 - Share compost soil with school and community gardens in our community.
 - Share vegetables with families.
 - Implement a shoe drive to help a special needs student purchase a service dog.
 - Collection of plastic caps to create a bench for our school garden.
-

CLC PARTNERSHIPS & COLLECTIVE IMPACT

SCHOOLS

- Curriculum
- Instruction
- Extracurricular Activities
- Food Services
- School Nurses
- Preschool Programs
- Art Education
- Parent Centers
- Student Services
- Federal and State Funding
- Summer Activities



COMMUNITY

- Civic Groups
- Businesses
- Recreation Facilities
- Health Services
- Recreation Programs
- Childcare Centers
- Professional Sports
- Art & Culture Opportunities
- Summer Camps
- Social Services
- Philanthropy Groups
- Churches
- After-school
- Professional Sports Teams

CLC PARTNERSHIPS THAT SUPPORT NEW GEL PROGRAM FOCUS

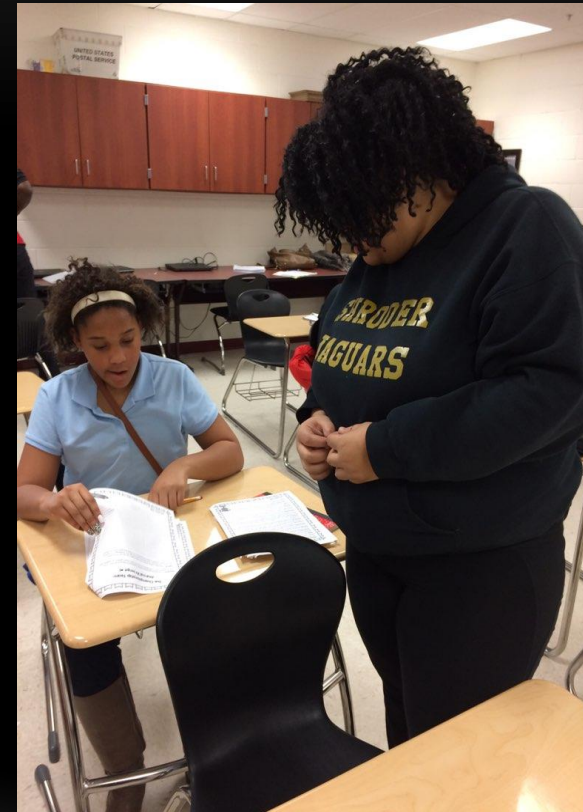


COMMUNITY CONNECTORS MENTORING PROGRAM

- Mentoring Initiative - sponsored by the Ohio Governor's Office
- Brings together students, their parents, schools, community, faith/values-based organizations, and businesses
- Targets students in Grades 5-12
- Partners Grade 5-6 students with high school juniors and seniors as mentors along with opportunities for interaction with a business partner.

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS MENTORING PROGRAM GOALS

1. Set goals for the 21st Century
2. Build Character
3. Develop Pathways to Achievement
4. Build a Sense of Resiliency
5. Believe in a Positive Future



COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

MENTORING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Weekly mentoring activities with the support of instructors
- Service Learning Projects
 - Can good collection/donation
 - Garden maintenance
- High School Shadow Day
- College Visits



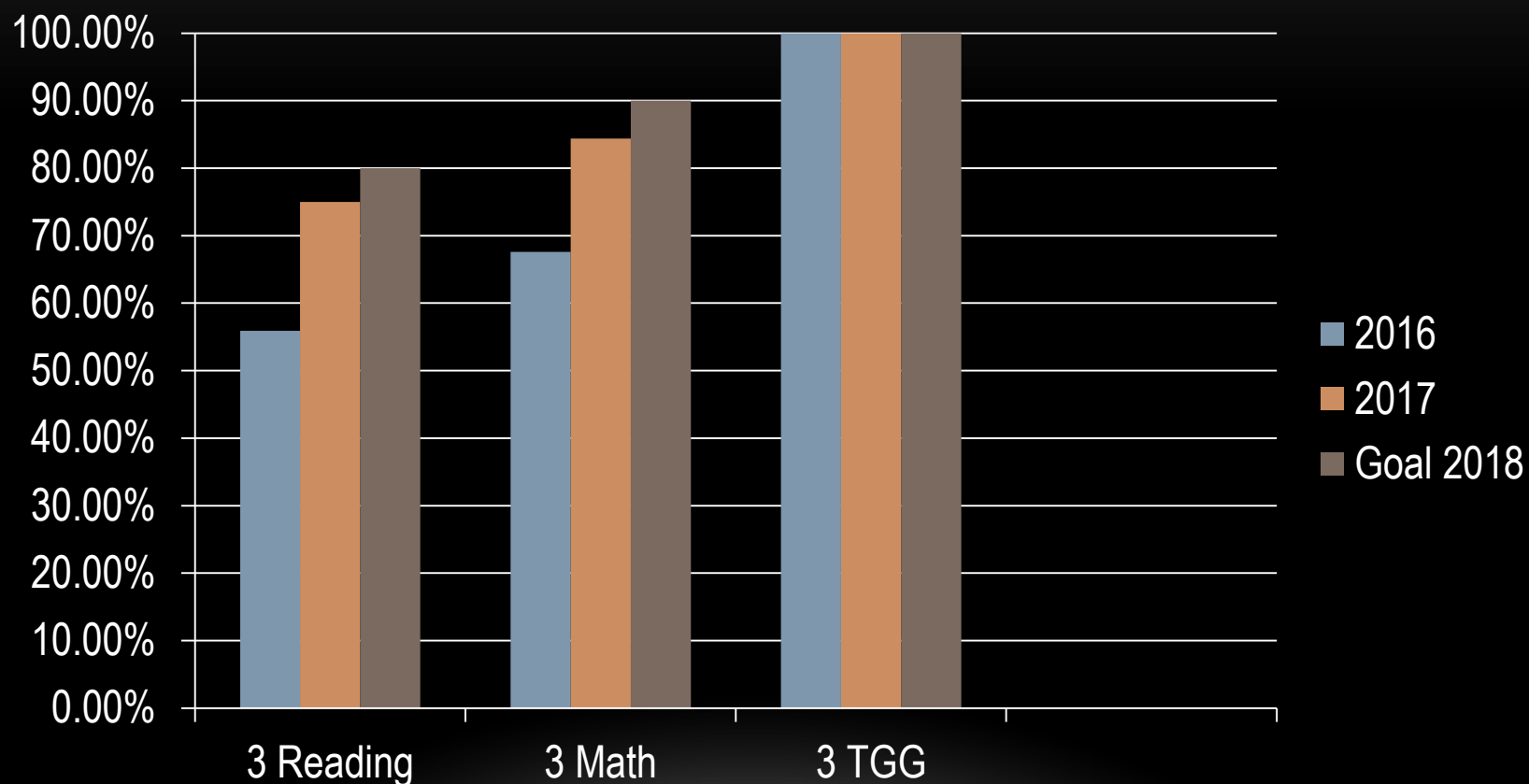
QUICK WINS FROM INITIAL ACTIVITIES

- Increased enrollment by 16% in one year
 - 355 students to 425 students
- Garnered more partnership support with resources
- Offered more training opportunities for staff in teaching core curriculum using innovative strategies

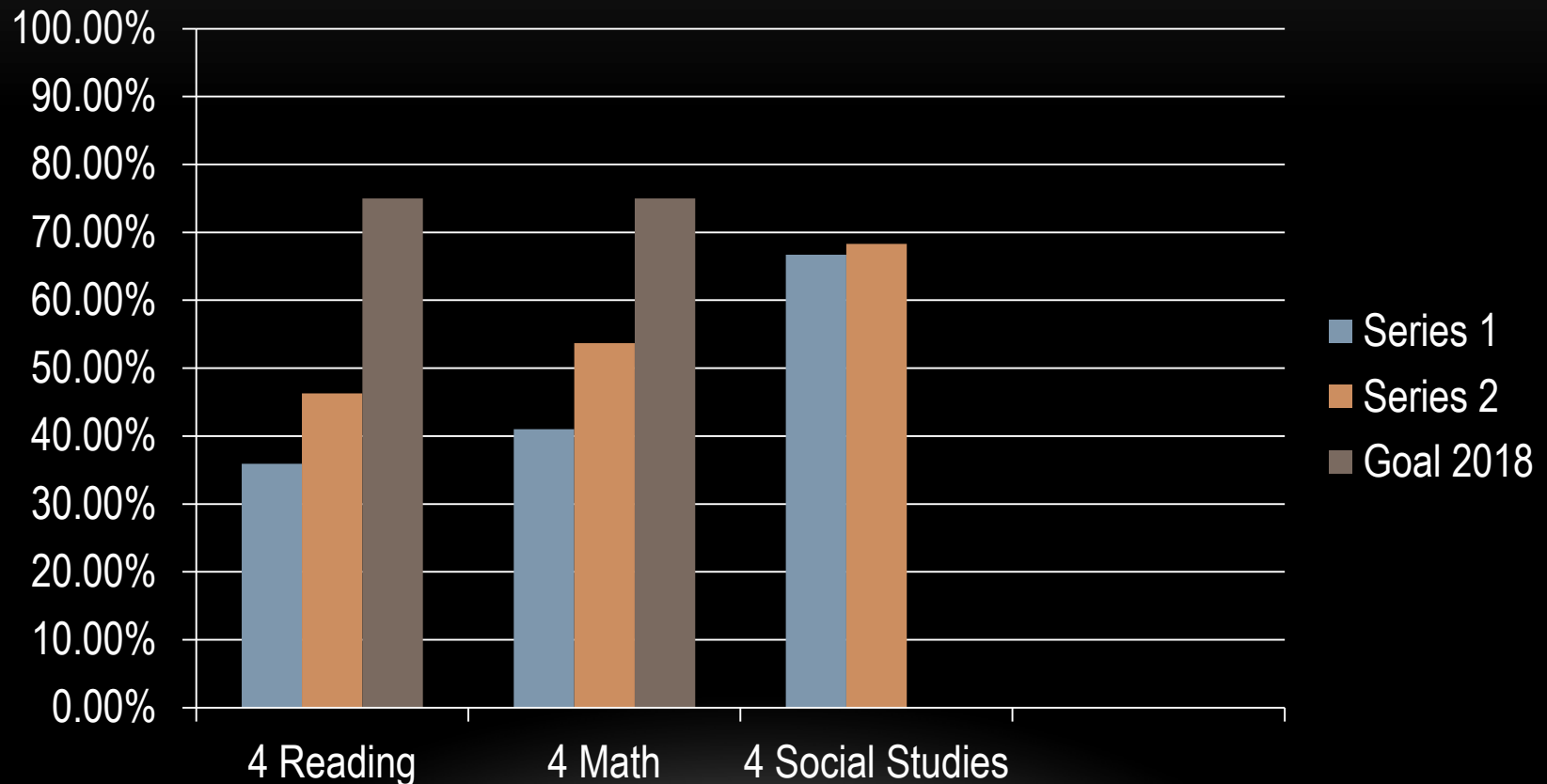
QUICK WINS FROM INITIAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

- Developed more hands-on/project-based curriculum in all grade levels
- Increased achievement school-wide
- Increased Annual Measured Progress from 0 to 89.9
 - Similar to AYP
- Increased Performance Index from 56.2 to 70.7
 - Weighted calculation of all tests

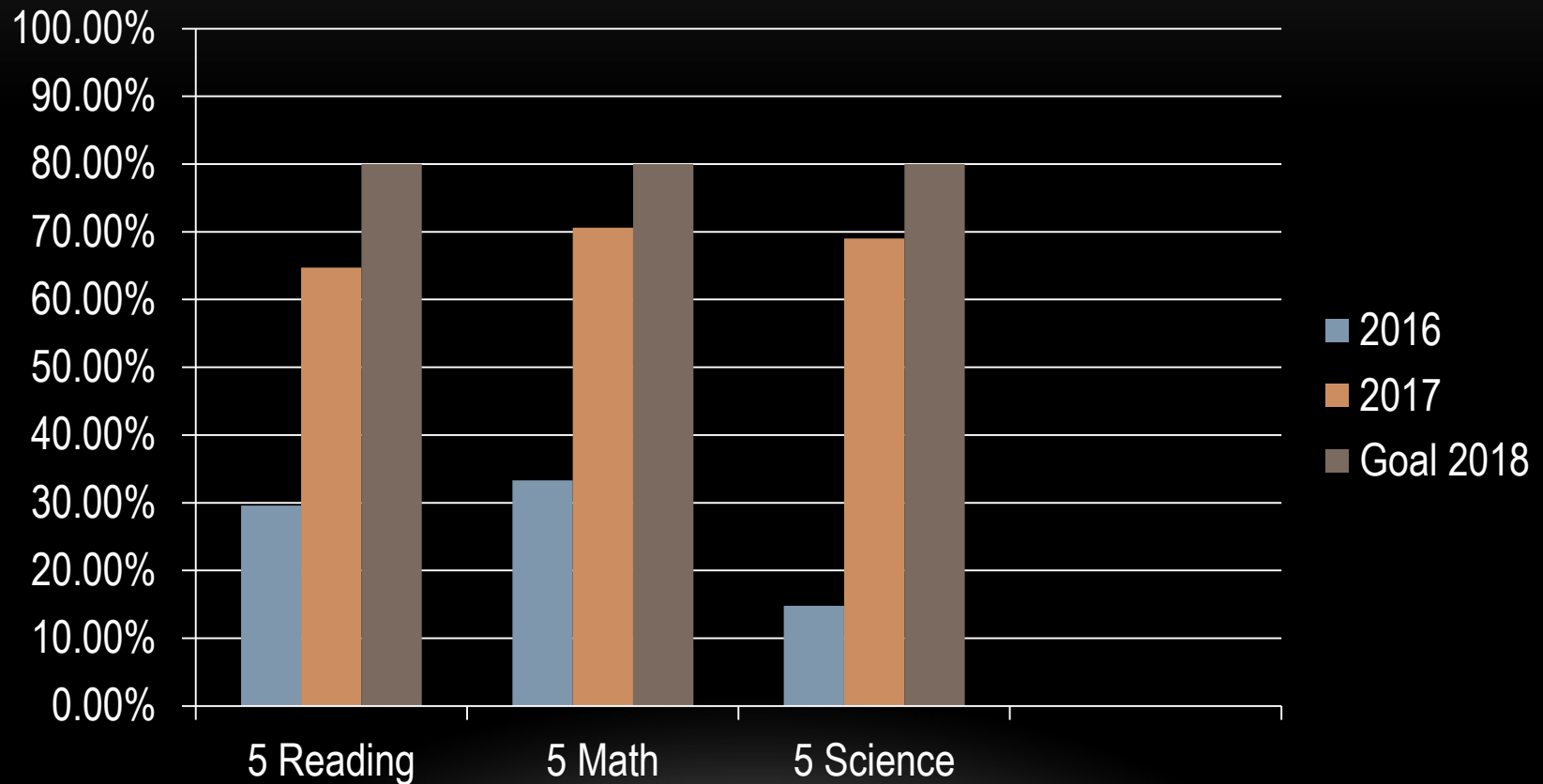
GRADE 3 DATA FROM STATE ASSESSMENTS



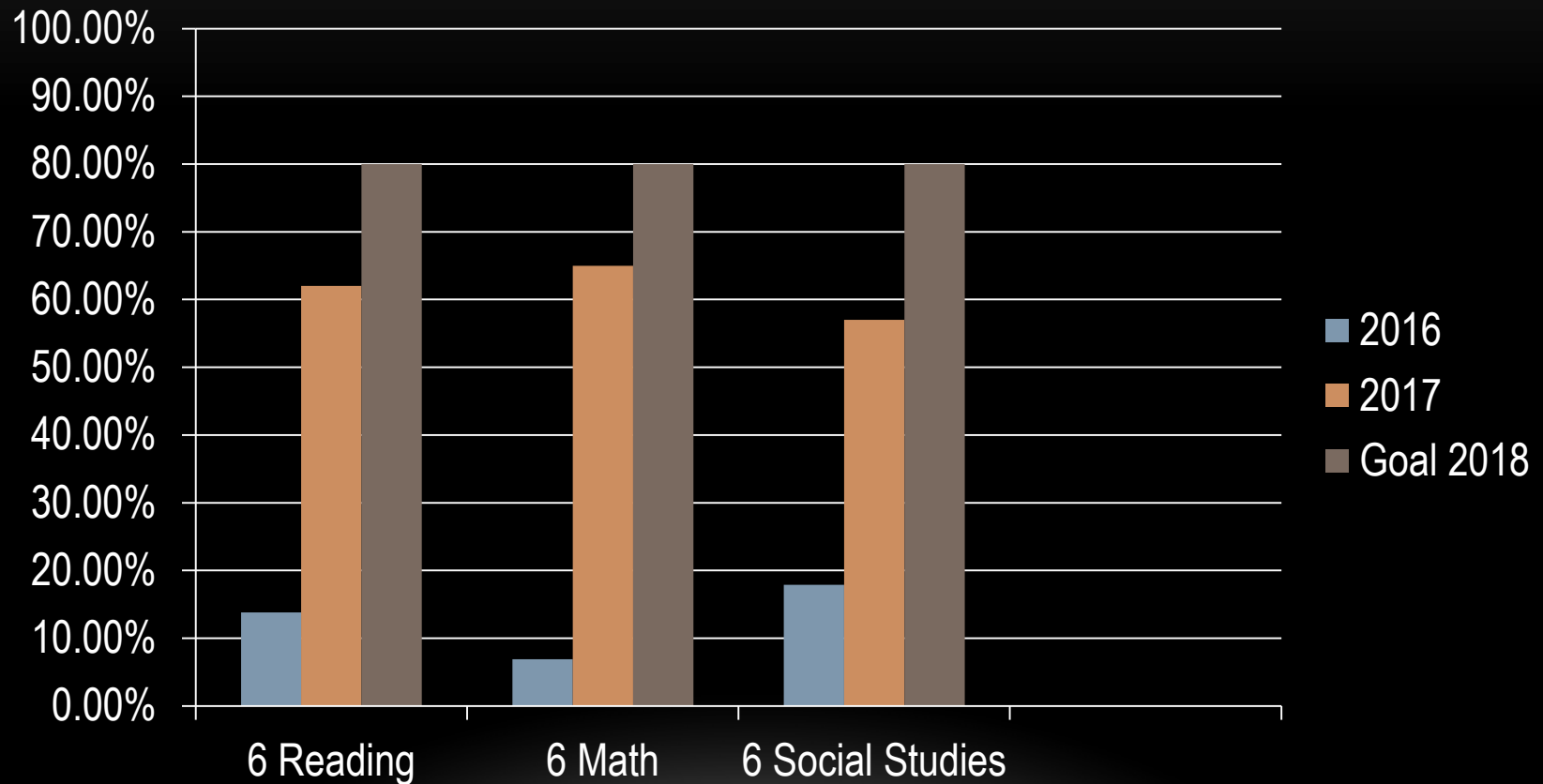
GRADE 4 DATA FROM STATE ASSESSMENTS



GRADE 5 DATA FROM STATE ASSESSMENTS



GRADE 6 DATA FROM STATE ASSESSMENTS



QUESTIONS

